

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A medicine packing apparatus comprising:

a discriminating mechanism for determining a configuration of a medicine package belt, the medicine package belt containing medicine in accordance with prescription data;

a distributing member for distributing the medicine package belt based on the configuration determined by said discriminating mechanism;

a reel member for winding a long medicine package belt distributed by said distributing member; and

a guide member for guiding and collecting a short medicine package belt distributed by said distributing member;

wherein said distributing member is operable to distribute the long medicine package belt toward said reel member when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the long medicine package belt, and said distributing member is further operable to distribute the short medicine package belt toward said guide member when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the short medicine package belt.

12. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said guide member is movable so that a guide position of said guide member is adjustable based on a length of the short medicine package belt to be distributed by said distributing member.

13. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 12, wherein said distributing member is further operable to distribute a blank medicine package belt toward a discharge

position when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the blank medicine package belt.

14. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 11, wherein said distributing member is further operable to distribute a blank medicine package belt toward a discharge position when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the blank medicine package belt.

15. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a binding member for binding the medicine package belt with binding tape after the medicine package belt is distributed to one of said reel member, said guide member, and said discharge position by said distributing member.

16. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a gripping member for holding the medicine package belt during a transfer of the medicine package belt from said one of said reel member, said guide member, and said discharge position to said binding member.

17. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a binding member for binding the medicine package belt with binding tape after the medicine package belt is distributed to one of said reel member and said guide member by said distributing member.

18. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a gripping member for holding the medicine package belt during a transfer of the medicine package belt from said one of said reel member and said guide member to said binding member.

19. (New) A medicine packing apparatus comprising:

a discriminating mechanism for determining a configuration of a medicine package belt, the medicine package belt containing medicine in accordance with prescription data;

a gripping member having a first arm and a second arm operable to move with respect to each other so as to change an angle between said first arm and said second arm based on the configuration of the medicine package belt determined by said discriminating mechanism, said gripping member being operable to grip the medicine package belt; and

a moving member for moving the medicine package belt gripped by said gripping member to a binding position;

wherein said gripping member is operable to change an open angle between said first arm and said second arm to a maximum angle and said moving member is operable to move said gripping member toward a reeled-condition long medicine package belt so as to grip the long medicine package belt when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the long medicine package belt, and said gripping member is operable to change an open angle between said first arm and said second arm to a less-than-maximum angle so as to grip a collected-condition short medicine package belt when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the short medicine package belt.

20. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 19, wherein one of said first arm and said second arm of said gripping member has a press portion, said moving member being operable to turn said gripping member so that said press portion presses the medicine package belt gripped by said gripping member at a binding position to discharge the medicine package belt.

21. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a distributing member for distributing the medicine package belt based on the configuration determined by said discriminating mechanism;

a reel member for winding a long medicine package belt distributed by said distributing member; and

a guide member for guiding and collecting a short medicine package belt distributed by said distributing member.

22. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 21, wherein said guide member is movable so that a guide position of said guide member is adjustable based on a length of the short medicine package belt to be distributed by said distributing member.

23. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 22, wherein said distributing member is further operable to distribute a blank medicine package belt toward a discharge position when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the blank medicine package belt.

24. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 21, wherein said distributing member is further operable to distribute a blank medicine package belt toward a discharge position when said discriminating mechanism determines the configuration of the medicine package belt to be the blank medicine package belt.

25. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a binding member for binding the medicine package belt with binding tape after the medicine package belt is distributed to one of said reel member, said guide member, and said discharge position by said distributing member.

26. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a binding member for binding the medicine package belt with binding tape after the medicine package belt is distributed to one of said reel member and said guide member by said distributing member.

27. (New) The medicine packing apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a binding member at the binding position for binding the medicine package belt with binding tape after the medicine package belt is moved by said moving member.